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Contact: Scott Starr 517-373-7708

Heather Foley 517-373-1707

## Sens. Toy, Gilbert restore information technology funding for state police

**LANSING** – The Michigan State Police force would not lose information technology funding under the State Police budget passed today by the Michigan Senate, thanks to efforts by Sens. Jud Gilbert and Laura Toy.

"It's very important that during the current war on terror that we don't limit the State Police's ability to use information technology to its fullest extent," said Gilbert, R-Algonac. "Sometimes, across the board cuts are a good way to trim the budget, but we also have to be careful that we protect public safety."

Funding for information technology had been scheduled for a 7-percent cut in all interdepartmental grants. An amendment sponsored by Gilbert and Toy was approved that restored the funding for state police so they would have adequate and effective resources for homeland security.

"We are facing some very difficult choices in balancing the state's budget," said Toy, R-Livonia. "While we must reduce our spending, we have a responsibility to ensure that core services like public safety are not compromised, particularly in the world in which we are all living today."

The state police budget now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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Editor's note: Audio comments from Sens. Gilbert and Toy are available on the Senate Majority Multi-media link at <a href="http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm">http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm</a>